THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Some PSUs under this Ministry are facing this problem.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The concerned PSUs are constantly in touch with the Railway authorities. Requirement of wagons for movement of raw materials to Integrated Steel Plants and for despatch of finished goods from them is reviewed by Cabinet Secretariat every week. Ministry of Steel also holds periodical meetings with Railway Board. The last such meeting was held on 26.6.1995 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel). An assurance was given in the meeting on behalf of Railway Board that the plants would not be allowed to go into distress situation.

Post of Chairman Lying Vacant in ICSSR

674. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total period during which the post of Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research has remained unfilled since April, 1991;

(b) the total period during which the post of Member-Secretary of the ICSSR has also been lying vacant; and

(c) whether procedures are proposed to be evolved to ensure that at the ICSSR does not suffer on account of the absence of incumbents in these important positions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Prof. Moonis Raza was appointed Chairman of ICSSR w.e.f. 3rd January 1991 and continued as such until his demise in July 1994. Prof. G. Ram Reddy was the Chairman of the Council [illegible]

(b) The post of Member-Secretary of the Council fell vacant as a result of the sudden resignation of the then Member-Secretary w.e.f. 27.06.1993. Joint Secretary (Universities), Department of Education, was appointed to perform the duties of the post in addition to his duties. The regular Member-Secretary of the Council has since been appointed w.e.f., 07.10.1994.

(c) The post of the Chairman is honorary whereas the post of Member-Secretary is permanent. However, in the absence of any of the two functionaries, the Government of India have powers to give directives to the Council to resolve the difficulty.

Milk Plants under Milk Scheme in Punjab

675. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of milk plants operating under the Milk Scheme in the country particularly in the State of Punjab; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the capacity of milk plants functioning in the different States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The following numbers of milk plants have been set up under the Operation Food programme:

	Rural	Metro	Total
In the country	143	10	153
In Punjab	9	—	9

Stengthening of milk plants is a continuing process and this is taken care of by investments made under the [illegible] programme.